THE

WEEKLY MUSEUM.

BALTIMORE—PRINTED BY JOHN SMITH AND CHRISTOPHER JACKSON,
No. 67, MARKET STREET.

VOL. I.] SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1797. [No. 5.

The ſubject of direct and indirect Taxation, has not only employed the attention of our Legiſlature for ſome time paſt, but alſo been the ſubject of converſation among our citizens: any piece, therefore, that may throw a light on the public mind, on this important queſtion, muſt be agreeable to the generality of our readers. The ſubſequent was publiſhed ſome years ago, in one of the public prints, and cannot fail of being inſtructive at this period, which conſideration has induced us to give it a place in the Weekly Muſeum.

Of Indirect Taxes.

ONE of the moſt diſtinguiſhed privileges of a free government, is the right ſecured to individuals of publiſhing their ſentiments to the world; and nothing contributes more to the ſecurity of mankind than the liberty of the preſs.—This is the great vehicle of information; 'tis here the faults of mankind are publiſhed, their intrigues detected, and their motives developed: With theſe objects in view, I proceed to ſtate the impropriety of depending on imports for revenue. The ſubject before me requires an attentive examination; becauſe from its diſcuſſion may either flow important truth or egregious error.

An indirect tax is a tax on conſumption. A tax on conſumption has no fixed limit; becauſe no moral calculation can aſcertain it with preciſion. The evils reſulting therefrom are two-fold: viz.—Should the quantity conſumed be ſhort of political calculation, there becomes a defect of revenue; ſhould it exceed it, there becomes a ſurplus, and every ſurplus implies exaction; or to ſpeak more plainly, 'tis always *unneceſſary* to require of the people the payment of a larger ſum than is *neceſſary*: Thus then is this mode defective, becauſe it is deſtitute of certainty—a goal to which all political calculations ſhould tend, and one alſo around which liberty ſhould rally. For if government is neceſſary to the ſecurity of civil liberty, it requires to be ſupported; and that too, not by the pompoſity of declamation; not by the adulation of ſycophants, or the eulogy of friends, but ſimply by aid of thoſe whoſe liberty it ſecures. On this baſis, then I ground this maxim, that if government contributes to the happineſs of mankind, mankind ought to be obliged to ſupport it. But how does it ſtand? that as the diſpoſitions of mankind vary, ſo does the operation of the law:—one man may purchaſe as much as another who is ten times as rich, and thus pay ten times more than he ought to pay; or both may purchaſe ten times leſs than they ought to purchaſe, and thus deprive government of its revenue; thus involve their patron in want, and bring ruin and poverty on the whole family of politics.

I now proceed to another view of the ſubject. Every law which is indirect in its operation, favors ariſtocracy—operating by impoſts, the money is paid into the hands of merchants, not as a tax to government, but as a debt on a civil contract; hence the immediate and direct intercourſe between government and the community is deſtroyed; hence an enquiry into the requiſitions of government, and the appropriation of its revenue is at an end; mankind are thus lulled into a fatal lethargy, and the deſigning world take advantage of their ſituation, and the great ſecret is to keep them ſtill ignorant of its operation.

But it may be argued, it is the buſineſs of the people to attend to the operation of all laws by which they are bound; and ſince the impoſt contains nothing authoritative, the people have a right to pay, or not to pay; that where there is no com-

pulſion, there is no oppreſſion. On theſe delufive grounds, or arguments, or poſitions, are the liberties of America ſuſpended. Although no law declares that a man ſhall not acquire information, yet if he is deprived of the opportunity, the conſequence is equally pernicious. It may be ſaid too, that ſince the repreſentatives of America are derived from the multitude, they are not only reſponſible to their conſtituents for their conduct, but are themſelves bound by laws which are paſſed. To which I reply, that as the mode of taxation is oppoſed to enquiry, 'tis certain not to take place; for a man is certain not to enquire into the cauſe of oppreſſion if he does not know it exiſts.

This is the baſis on which European deſpotiſm has been reared; and it is a baſis on which the future deſpotiſm of America will be founded. As to the reſponſibility of the repreſentative body 'tis a truth univerſally known, that a man at the diſtance of 500 miles from his conſtituents is ſeldom called to account, and in fine, not one man in an hundred knows how his repreſentative votes in moſt queſtions which are agitated in congreſs; and all that an evil diſpoſed repreſentative has to do, is to ſpeculate on the nation's reſources, connect ſome friends, in the event have his fame puffed off, and he is certain to be elected again. It would therefore be proper that the people ſhould frequently change their repreſentatives, as the moſt certain means of guarding againſt corruption in their government. But not to degreſs. It has been further ſaid, that a tax on conſumption is proper; becauſe it diſcourages idleneſs and encourages induſtry. This being an argument highly favorable to the advocates of the meaſure, it requires an inveſtigation. Who pays the tax? The people of America, ſays the conſumers? the whole maſs of citizens. Thus it appears that it is a tax on labour; for, miſers excepted, the labour of all America is taxed, only that ſome pay more than they ought to pay, and others leſs. If then the tax ſhould be direct, every man would pay in proportion to his ability; or in fine, as the produce of America is a neceſſary of life, it would be a proper ſubject of taxation; becauſe the conſumer, the foreign purchaſer, would pay it.

Thus the ground and operation of the tax would be inſtead; government would know on what it depended; the people would know what they paid; oppreſſion would take its leave; it would have no ſubject on which to operate; the eye of the public would be ever open; an increaſe of tax would ever induce an enquiry into its neceſſity, and direct the attention to its operation. But impoſts gradually lulls to ſleep the right and neceſſity of enquiry; imperceptibly ſteals from the people their whole political right. Having travelled thus far the path of truth, I heſitate not to declare that an ariſtocracy is generating: for money is its greateſt luminary. Dazzled by its rays, has the eye of reaſon been dimmed, and led through maſſes of error. Mankind are accuſtomed to pay, and are not accuſtomed to enquire (for its imperceptible operation militates againſt enquiry.) Hence deſigning men have always an opportunity of impoſing on the community, by being furniſhed with money to carry on negociations, without their conſent or participation. To conclude—Various cauſes have produced the diſſolution of nations, when open force has been oppoſed, liberty has generally triumphed—'tis then only from imperceptible movements that ſhe need to dread a ſhock.

On the Uſe of Oxen in Huſbandry.

The uſe of horſes in huſbandry would not be ſo general here, if farmers would think for themſelves. That oxen would be of equal utility (beaſt for beaſt) in point of working, is a fact decided by the experience of old countries. This being granted, the four following proofs of the ſuperior convenience and profit of cattle, muſt give them an undoubted preference.

1ſt. To a new ſettler, the coſt of ſtocking his farm with oxen is much leſs than with horſes.

2d. The facility of feeding oxen alſo gives them the preference—they will eat a coarſer food than horſes, and conſume leſs in quantity.

3d. They are more hardy, and leſs ſubject to diſeaſe; and they can better endure labour, inclemency of weather, and the unavoidable expoſure in new ſettlements.

4th. With loſs of ſight, old age, or broken limbs, they will command, if fat, a price equal to the original value.

As the ſtrength of your cattle, and their value to the butcher, depend entirely on their ſhape, ſtrict attention muſt be ob-

ſerved in the choice of your breeding ſtock. The form which ſhould be the criterion of a cow, bull or ox, is that of a hogſhead, nearly circular, with ſmall, and as ſhort legs as poſſible: The ſmaller the bones, the truer will be the make of the beaſt—the quicker it will fatten—and the weight, we may eaſily conceive, will have a larger proportion of valuable meat. Fleſh, not bone, is the butcher's object; and ſtrength, not ſize, is the farmer's.

To make the ox moſt ſerviceable, you muſt begin with it when a calf; handle it frequently, treat it gently, and feed it well. If you have room, it ſhould be houſed with your cows, and ſhould have a ſeparate ſtall, early. It muſt be broken to labour by degrees, and early put into harneſs, but only uſed as leader to a light load for a year, before it ſhares the labour of a farm. The ſlowneſs of an ox appears to be the only objection; and this will be effectually removed by the above treatment and care, in breaking them.

Should the above only induce a few to adopt the uſe of cattle, experience of their ſuperior utility muſt make it general.

Scale of Ages of the Animal Creation.

The following ſcale of the average duration of animal life is collected from Linnæus, Buffon, and other celebrated writers of natural hiſtory:

A hare will live	10 years.	
A cat	10	
A goat	8	
An aſs	30	
A ſheep	10	
A ram	15	
A dog from 14 to	20	and ſometimes more
A bull	15	
An ox (a curious fact)	20	
Swine	25	
A peacock	25	
A horſe from 20 to	30	
A pigeon	8	
A turtle dove	25	
A partridge	25	
A raven	100	
An eagle	100	

Of the gooſe, the following may be depended upon as a fact: There is a family living in Scotland, who are able to aſcertain, that a gooſe has been kept in the family 70 years—they know it muſt be full older, but they fix this period, as being able to prove it incontrovertibly.

THOUGHTS ON A FUTURE STATE.

That the puniſhment of the ſinner after death will continue forever in an extreme degree, appears repugnant to every idea of God as benevolent and merciful. For men were formed by him, and he endowed them with the powers of action; hence every motion acted by us is in conſequence of the original impulſe of the Deity—Therefore, would it not be unjuſt as well as cruel, to puniſh us for what neceſſity obliged us to perform? The Deity, in the figurative phraſeology of Scripture, is ſaid to have the ſame power over us as the potter has over the clay; and, if the analogy is admitted to be juſt, we muſt ſuppoſe ourſelves debilitated from acting in any ſphere unleſs impelled by Omnipotence; for clay is dead, inactive matter, and cannot of itſelf aſſume the various forms that may be communicated by the potter. If the clay, when formed, falls to the ground, and is broken to pieces or injured in any reſpect, it muſt be owing to ſome impulſe received from a diſtinct body. Would not the conſequences be the ſame in our puniſhing the clay for falling, as thoſe that would accrue from mankind being ſubjected by God to eternal miſery?

But the degree of purification that the clay muſt undergo, after it has been broken may be analogous to that refiners fire (metaphorically ſpeaking) in which the foul will be purged from the droſs or ſenſuality that it might have imbibed during its reſidence in the corporeal organ. It muſt therefore be a ſtate of probation into which the ſoul paſſes after ſeparation from the body, and, it is probable, that the degree of purgation neceſſary to be endured will be in proportion to the influence of the human nature in corrupting the divine. The apoſtle, ſpeaking of the ſituations of mankind after death, compares them to the heavenly conſtellations, the ſun, moon, ſtars, &c. and intimates that as the glory or excellency of the one ſurpaſſes the other, ſo will the ſame degrees of preeminence reign among departed ſouls in heaven. If our feeble conceptions would permit us to draw the line of compariſon between the magnitude and ſplendor of the ſun, and the ſmalleſt luminary in the heavens, how many millions of times would the glory of the one exceed that of the other! It therefore, in the life beyond mortality the difference of happineſs is in the ſame

proportion as the ſplendor and magnitude of the heavenly bodies are to each other, how exalted and inconceivably majeſtic muſt be the higheſt order, and how almoſt infinitely immenſe the diſtance between it and the loweſt!

The happineſs of the ſoul appears to be progreſſive, proceeding uniformly from one degree of glory to another. Now the ſoul, inaſmuch as it is an emanation proceeding from God, can never, by imbibing ſenſuality from the body, be radically diveſted of a degree of glory, or of ſome diſtant ſimilitude to its great original; for were we to admit the contrary doctrine the natural conſequence will follow—that the ſoul may be annihilated: for the moment we ſuppoſe it to looſe this reſemblance, we deny its divine nature and exiſtence. If we are formed in the image of God, if the breath of his noſtrils inſpires us with life and reaſon, his breath (our ſoul's) can never be deſtroyed unleſs we ſuppoſe that God himſelf will not exiſt for ever. There being therefore in the vileſt ſtate of gravity a ſmall reſemblance of God habitating the ſoul, the bleſſedneſs enjoyed after diſſolution will be in proportion to that degree; for the immortal mind is not at once able to receive the higheſt ſenſations of bleſſedneſs; or, in other words, to enter into the higheſt heavens, or order of emanations, until it becomes progreſſively purified from the effects of morality; and as the progreſſion of diſſimularity to the Adamical nature, and likeneſs to the ſupreme good (God) proceeds, miſery will be proportionably deſtroyed, and the fellowſhip of goodneſs in the ſame degree experienced. In conformity to this doctrine we find a ſucceſſion of heavens ſpoken of in the ſcriptures, i. e. the firſt, ſecond, third, &c. Now this cannot be ſaid of the material heavens, for the modern principles of aſtronomy loudly reprobate ſuch a notion, and the ſcriptures themſelves, diveſted of metaphor evidently contradict it. The apoſtle Paul is ſaid to have been carried up into the third heaven. Nevertheleſs, it is not to be concluded that his body was tranſplanted form the earth, but rather that he ſaw a viſion of the glory enjoyed by the third order of ſpirits; for it is ſaid that he was in a deep ſleep. The happineſs and glory of this order of ſpirits may be in ſome degree conceived from the effects it had on Paul. His intellectual powers muſt have been amazingly enraptured, when he ſaw things, from their exalted nature, inexpreſſible to utter! His animal, ſenſitive feeling muſt have been greatly ſatisfied at the moment, and in proportion as they were ſo, he would enjoy, by his view of the third heavens, a prelibation as they were ſo, he would enjoy, by his view of the third heaven, a prelibation of that ſtate in which the ſoul will enter, when exalted to the third degree of progreſſive happineſs.

A PARADUN.

TO *dun*—or not to *dun*? That is the queſtion,
Whether 'tis better that the *Purſe* ſhould ſuffer
(For lack of caſh) by baneful emptineſs;
Or by a *gentle dun* to fill it up:
To *dun!* to *get the money*—and be enabled
To *live*—and *pay our debts*—*'tis a conſummation*
Devoutly to be wiſhed. To *dun*—to be *deny'd*—
Deny'd—with "CALL AGAIN"—Ay, there's the rub—
For in that "*call again*," what evils come—
What diſapointment—ſore—chagrin—and woe—
What time is waſted—and what ſhoes are worn
In conſequence—muſt give us pain.—
——It is this——
That makes ſo many debts not worth collecting:
'Tis this that ſickens buſineſs to deſpair—
And keeps from HONEST LABOUR its *reward*,
While thus in language of complaint we ſpeak,
We don't forget our many, many *friends*;
To them a debt of gratitude we owe:
To them our gratitude we freely pay.
Buoy'd by their kindneſs, ſtill our bark ſhall ſail,
Enjoy the pleaſing CALM—nor dread the boiſt'rous GALE.

QUESTION.

WHY ſee we oft that ancient maids
Are peeviſh and ill-natur'd jades?

ANSWER.

Becauſe when younog, they were too; [illegible]d,
To liſten to the ſparks that vow'd:
And, having paſs'd their early prime,
Muſt now lament the loſs of time.
By which they might have led their lives
As mothers, friends, and chearful wives;

For homely fare, the dame muſt be
That none wi h eyes of love could ſee.
Ha, as they more advance in years,
The more for this are ſhed their tears;
And ſtill the more their hopes are croſt,
Of fame and virtue more they boaſt:
Till finding none to bid them wed,
And love to youthful maidens fled,
Their faces tell the deep regret,
And thus they rail, and pine and fret.

ANECDOTE

A Member of the general court of Maſſachuſetts, who, from accuſtoming himſelf to a nap after dinner, when at home, could not diſpenſe with the cuſtom, when attending to give laws to a mighty people, not long ſince occaſioned much ſport in the houſe, by the following incident. A day was aſſigned for the ſecond reading of a lumber-act: as this intereſted our ſleeper, he requeſt a friend, who ſat next him, to waken him, if the diſcuſſion of the bill ſhould be introduced, while he was aſleep. This his friend promiſed him; but happening to go out for a few minutes, the bill was called for; and, after a ſhort debate, was committed Immediately after, the bill for preventing fornication, was brought on. This occaſioned ſome debate, during which the ſleeper's friend returned. Finding the lumber bill was diſmiſſed, he thought he might indulge his friend in his nap. However, as ill luck would have it, he trod upon the toe of this votary to Morpheus, who ſuppoſed it a ſignal for his waking; immediately rouſing himſelf he rubbed his eyes, and looking about, perceived a pauſe in the debate, on which he aroſe, and addreſſed the ſpeaker as follows; "Sir, I wiſh to ſpeak "a few words on the bill now in queſtion. It "affects, Mr. Speaker, my conſtituents very "much; for above half our town get their "living by it."

THE WEEKLY MUSEUM.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5.

Our commerce has been in a ſtate of ſtagnation during the month of January, occaſioned by the general froſt ſhutting up our harbour; but we hope a few days of temperate weather will ſoon give us relief, and enable our citizens to purſue again the various objects of their induſtry.

News from Europe does not wear the moſt pleaſing aſpect, and it is impoſſible to ſay at preſent, what will be the conſequence of our differences with the French Republic. It is certain our ſhipping are ſuffering greatly in the Weſt-Indies. We cannot reflect on the ſubject without ſincerely ſympathizing with our brave ſeamen, who, though innocent of any political offence, are liable to every inſult and indignity. It is extremely hard, when men are ſtruggling in the purſuit of an honeſt livelihood, they ſhould be obſtructed and ruined on every frivolous pretence.

The pleaſure and convenience intended to be derived to our citizens, from the erection of lamps in the ſtreets of this city, were expected to be permanent and laſting. But an obſerver, and not a very critical one neither, would not heſitate to pronounce ſentence upon their inutility. For ſeveral nights paſt, about nine o'clock (which is about the time people are generally returning to their homes) the lamps, particularly in Market ſtreet, were either entirely extinguiſhed, or ſo dim as not to be of the leaſt ſervice. What can be the meaning of this deficiency in the *City Lights?* Either the lamp lighters are unacquainted with their buſineſs, or the parſimony of thoſe whoſe duty it is to regulate theſe things, will not afford them a ſufficiency of oil for the purpoſe of keeping the lamps burning till a proper hour.

[*M. Journal.*]

William Cobbet, of Philadelphia, has iſſued propoſals for publiſhing a daily paper in the city, under the title of "Porcupine's Gazette." The reaſon he aſſigns for it is, that there are too many papers already—that is, ſo many ill conducted papers, calculated to miſlead the people, that another is become neceſſary to undeceive them. Peter will prove a terrible ſcourge to the patriots.

[*Minerva.*]

That Tom Paine ſhould attempt to ſully the character of George Waſhington, is one of the moſt [illegible] efforts which this age of Quixotiſm has given birth to. As Shakeſpeare ſays, "as well might he attempt to ſtop out the ſun with a [illegible] ther." Centuries after the name of Paine [illegible] forgotten, that of Waſhington will [illegible] the annals of poſterity, and as age revolves [illegible] attain new ſplendor—

"O Waſhington! Columbia's boaſt,
Thy ſeat a Stuart—tran an hoſt,
Enjoy in Vernon's happy, ſhade
(Which faction's fiends can ne'er invade)
The holy raptures of a mind
With ev'ry noble gift refin'd:
Thy life in retrop & luſtre,
Reveal the actions of each day;
So ſhall thou feel the glow,
Which myriad Paines never know."

From a Boſton Paper.

The gentlemen who lately arrived from France, make no mention of any intended hoſtility againſt the United States. The French people were not altogether pleaſed with the treaty with England—but they knew the United States was an independent nation, and had a right to enter into any compact it pleaſed—juſt as much as France had to enter into a treaty with Spain or any other deſpotic power! At Rochelle the Americans were treated with as much friendſhip and cordiality as Frenchmen are in the United States.

Married, laſt evening, by the Rev. Dr. Alliſon, Mr. *John Cole*, to Miſs *Mary M'Donogh*, both of this city.

Died at his houſe, in Hanover-ſtreet on Sunday morning laſt, about 4 o'clock, Mr. John Conrad Zollikoffer.

BARBADOES, Dec. 7.

Several veſſels have arrived within the few laſt days from the Coaſt of Africa, where the French have again been playing their old republican game of burning and deſtroying the Britiſh factories and ships. The commanders of ſome of the veſſels deſtroyed on the coaſt are arrived here, and give the above diſagreeable account. How long they may continue their depredations, cannot now be determined, as the attention of the Britiſh men of war on foreign ſtations, ſeem wholly occupied in collecting Spaniſh dollars.

PROVIDENCE, Jan. 21.

Extract of a letter from Copenhagen, to a gentleman in this town, dated October 5.

"Our government have lately paſſed a reſolution, permitting American veſſels to bring India goods to this market, direct from any port in the Eaſt Indies, China excepted, on the ſame footing in all reſpects as Daniſh ships. We expect this meaſure will give our friends in America a good opportunity of extending their India trade."

NEW-YORK, Jan. 31.

By the laſt arrivals from London, we learn that the Portugueſe Miniſter, commiſſioned to treat for peace, arrived in Paris on the 7th Oct.

The Eaſt India Company have it in contemplation to apply to Parliament for leave to add to their capital ſtock the ſum of two millions. The reaſons aſſigned by the chairman of the court of directors, are, the high price of war freights—large payments to the bank of England and eſpecially the vaſt increaſe of their trade. The war with Tippoo had alſo created a drawback of two millions from what would otherwiſe have been derived from their territories.

On the 28th October, Mr. Pitt brought forward his propoſition, in the houſe of commons, for funding the navy and exchequer bills. The former amounting to 11,993,167l. ſterling; the latter two millions and a half. Theſe navy bills fall due at different periods—none were due at the time of this propoſition, but the miniſter obſerved, that ſuch a quantity of floating ſecurities in market injured the public credit and the operations of commerce. After debate, the motion paſſed.

During the diſcuſſion, Mr. Pitt made the following remarks on the ſubject of peace and the pending negotiation.

"Nor do I conſider it as a meaſure leſs eligible in another view of our ſituation in the proſpect of peace. It cannot ſurely be expected that at the very commencement of a negotiation of ſo momentous a nature, and ſo extenſive in its relations, any occurrence ſhould take place within the ſhort period of a week deciſive of its iſſue: he muſt, indeed, reaſon at an extraordinary and unaccountable rate, who calculates on ſuch an event. However ſanguine in my own wiſhes for the auſpicious return of tranquility, I cannot admit that the diſcuſſions of the great and important intereſts of Great Britain and her allies and of thoſe weighty and complicated points which they neceſſarily involve, are likely to be ſo ſpeedily decided or brought within ſo ſhort a compaſs as to have any influence on the preſent meaſure. There is, indeed, one poſſible caſe to which I reluctantly notice, and which I ſincerely truſt will, in the preſent inſtance, be averted, which might render the reſult of negotiation matter of ſuch ſpeedy iſſue, namely, that ſome propoſition be ſtarted in its very outſet, of ſuch a nature as at once to put a negative on all our hopes of peace, and to put a ſtop to all further proceedings. But if we ſhall be ultimately ſucceſsful in the grand object of all our wiſhes, it is not the ſpace of a ſingle week which can give any definitive turn to the complexion of negotiation, far leſs decide the important iſſue. But if from the magnitude and importance of the queſtions to be diſcuſſed, it ſhould be neceſſary to adopt a plan of negociation more extenſive, and likely to be protracted for a conſiderable period, it is reaſonable that during all the time we ſhould ſubmit to the preſſure of an evil, which ſo long exiſts, muſt continue to weigh down our proſperity, and which we

poſſes the means inſtantly to remove, & we have only the energy to exert it!"

We underſtand from good authority, that Daniſh and Sweeniſh as well as American veſſels have been condemned by the French tribunals in Spain, together with their cargoes under the pretence of intercepting the trade of neutrals with Engliſh ports.

PHILADELPHIA, January 28.

Never ſince we have aſſumed the office of recording paſſing events to the public, have we entered on the taſk with more painful ſenſations, than on the melancholy occaſion we have now to mention. About five o'clock yeſterday morning, the houſe of Mr. Andrew Brown, printer of the Philadelphia gazette, in this city, was diſcovered to be on fire. How it originated or progreſſed, we have not correct information, but the melancholy and almoſt unparalled cataſtrophe is, we fear, too certain. Mrs. Brown, two daughters, one ſon, and a negro boy, have periſhed in the flames. Two apprentices have ſuffered ſeverely, and Mr. Brown is ſo dreadfully burnt, that but faint hopes of his recovery are entertained.

This, as far as we can learn, is a correct ſtatement of this ſhocking accident; happy ſhall we eſteem the taſk of contradicting any of the melancholy facts here detailed, ſo as to diminiſh the horror which is attached to them. The dwelling houſe is greatly injured; but the printing office, which lies backward, we underſtand has eſcaped any material damage.

Intelligence of an highly intereſting nature to our government has been received within a few days from Europe; we cannot pretend to be acquainted with ſecret operations of foreign governments, nor have any other authority for aſſuming what the matter in queſtion really is, than what ariſes from the analogy of facts known with the courſe and time of the preſent circumſtances, and the probability of the meaſures we form of.

We underſtand that the information received comes circuitouſly from Paris, and we thence conclude that as the French government have already ſuſpended their diplomatique connexion near the United States, that they have alſo refuſed to receive Mr. Pinckney;—upon theſe conjectures—and which we offer only as ſuch—our readers will form their own opinion, it may be reaſonably ſuppoſed that if ſuch an event has really taken place, it will be ſpeedily communicated to the legiſlature.

January 31.

Humanity bluſhes and hides her inſulted head at the recital of ſufferings yeſterday detailed in the petition preſented to congreſs by certain perſecuted Africans. Every friend to this oppreſſed race, muſt lament that any laws ſhould ariſe from ſtate policy which gives ſanction to ſuch a violation of the inherent rights of man. Ranking amongſt the moſt generous lovers of freedom and having bled at every pore in her ſacred cauſe, Americans are doubly intereſted in abolition of ſlavery, and we truſt the time will arrive when every ſtate in the union ſhall cheerfully acknowledge

"The Rights of Man, by nature ſtill are due,
"To men of every clime and every hue."

Feb. 1.

Poſtcript of a letter from Jamaica, dated 24th December, 1796.

General Abercrombie and his army are landed at St. Domingo, and were within a few miles of Cape Francois, driving all before them.

A fleet of two hundred ſail lately paſſed Monte Criſtio, apparently towards Cape Nichola Mole, ſuppoſed to be the force under General Abercrombie, from England.

Extract of a letter from an American gentleman, dated (New-Providence) the 23d of December, 1796.

"Numbers of veſſels from the Carolinas, Virginia, and New-York, arriving here with loads of proviſions; they are now a mere drug—Flour has been offered at 12 dollars per barrel, Corn one dollar per buſhel, Rice 4 dollars per cwt. Lumber 13 and 15 dollars per. M.—add to this, ſeveral arrivals of proviſions are expected, and few or no purchaſers."

Extract of a letter from Martinique, dated 7th January, 1797, received by the ſchr. Liberty, capt. Crane, arrived at Marcus Hook.

"On the 15th inſtant arrived at Fort Loyal, Sir R. Abercrombie, Gen. Hope, from England, after a paſſage of 51 days, in the Arethuia frigate; and we learn that 15000 men may be expected in the courſe of this month, it is ſuppoſed to attack Guadaloupe, although the moſt profound ſecrecy is obſerved at head quarters.

"Tranquility is at length reſtored to the ill-fated iſlands of St. Vincents and Grenada, and the inſurgents of St. Lucia are nearly reduced—The Charibs have all ſurrendered, and are now in the iſland of Baliſoa.

"On the 26th ult. ſix ſail of the line, with ſome frigates, ſailed it is ſuppoſed to Trinidad, to cut out the Spaniſh ſquadron, conſiſting of five ſhips of the line."

February 3.

Died on Tueſday in the Pennſylvania Hoſpital (having reſided therein upwards of twelve years) James Filby jun. planter, of the Eaſtern-ſhore of Maryland.

WILMINGTON (Del.) Jan. 28.

The reſolution publiſhed in this paper a few days ſince, for ſubmitting to the citizens of this ſtate, the propriety of uniting the whole peninſula ſo as to form one ſtate, or of uniting this ſtate to Pentſylvania or Maryland &c. was carried in the Senate with but one diſſenting voice; it was however loſt in the Houſe of Repreſentatives all the Newcaſtle members voted for the reſolution.

Arrived, brig Sally, Capt. Hawkins, belonging to this port, 18 days from Aux Cayes; brings unpleaſant accounts from that quarter. The French ſeem to outvie the Britiſh, and are rather overſtrained in their acts of amity and complacence, as every American veſſel bound to or from a Britiſh port, meet with certain condemnation.

CHARLESTON, Jan. 24.

A few days ago, captain March, from Newburyport, ſpoke a ſhip from Oporto 6 days out, by the captain of which he was informed that the Portugueſe were very buſy there making preparations to oppoſe the French, who were daily expecting to invade that country.

THE CARELESS COUPLE.

JENNY is poor, and I am poor,
Yet we will wed—ſo ſay no more!
And ſhould the harm you mention come,
As few that marry but have ſome,
No doubt but heaven will ſtand our friend,
And BREAD as well as CHILDREN ſend.
So fares the hen in farmer's yard,
To live alone ſhe finds it hard;
I've known her weary every claw,
In ſearch of corn among the ſtraw;
But when in queſt of nicer food,
She clucks among her chirping brood.
With joy I've ſeen the ſelf ſame hen,
That ſcratch for ONE, could ſcratch for TEN.
Theſe are the tho'ts that make me willing
To take my girl without a ſhilling;
And for the ſelf-ſame cauſe, d'ye ſee,
Jenny's reſolv'd to marry me.

In COUNCIL, ANNAPOLIS, January 5, 1797.

Ordered, That the reſolutions paſſed by the general aſſembly, at their laſt ſeſſion, reſpecting certificates and bills of credit, be publiſhed eight weeks ſucceſſively in one of the Philadelphia and Alexandria news-papers, and in one of the Baltimore, Frederick-town and Eaſton papers, and the Maryland Gazettee.

By order,
NINIAN PINKNEY.
Clerk of the Council.

By the HOUSE of DELEGATES, December 17, 1796.

1ſt. *Reſolved*, That the treaſurer of the weſtern ſhore be and he is hereby authoriſed to pay off and diſcharge the principal and intereſt due on all certificates heretofore iſſued by the State of Maryland, other than thoſe diſtinguiſhed as fraudulent ones, provided the ſame are brought into the treaſury for payment on or before the firſt day of July, one thouſand ſeven hundred and ninety-ſeven.

2d. *Reſolved*, That all holders of certificates heretofore iſſued and funded by the State of Maryland, bring the ſame to the treaſury of the weſtern ſhore for payment of principal and intereſt, on or before the firſt day of July, next, and that no intereſt on any certificates heretofore iſſued, which ſhall accrue after the firſt day of July, one thouſand ſeven hundred and ninety ſeven, ſhall be paid thereafter, nor the principal ſum until after the end of the next ſeſſion of aſſembly.

3d. *Reſolved*, That ſuch part of the five months pay, due the officers and ſoldiers of the Maryland line, and due for ſervices on board the barges, as ſhall not be demanded of the treaſurer of the weſtern ſhore on or before the firſt day of July, one thouſand ſeven hundred and ninety-ſeven, be not paid to any perſon or perſons demanding any part of the ſame until after the end of the next ſeſſion of aſſembly.

4th. *Reſolved*, That the treaſurer of the weſtern ſhore be and he is hereby authoriſed to pay off and diſcharge the amount of principal and intereſt of ſuch bills of credit of the emiſſion under the act of June ſeſſion, one thouſand ſeven hundred and eighty, as may be produced and brought into the treaſury on or before the firſt day of July next.

5th. *Reſolved*, That if any of the holders of bills of credit emitted in virtue of the act of June ſeſſion, one thouſand ſeven hundred and eighty, do not bring the ſame into the treaſury of the weſtern ſhore for payment, on or before the firſt day of July, one thouſand ſeven hundred and ninety-ſeven, that all intereſt from that time ceaſe thereon, and the principal not be paid until after the end of the next ſeſſion of aſſembly.

6th. *Reſolved*, That the above reſolutions be publiſhed for eight weeks ſucceſſively in one of the Philadelphia and Alexandria newspapers, and in one of the Baltimore, Frederick town and Eaſton papers and the Maryland Gazette, that the creditors of the ſtate may be notified that funds are prepared for the diſcharge of their claims.

By order,
W. HARWOOD, Clk.

NOTICE.

THE Co-partnerſhip of Samuel Houpt and Samuel Ridinger, Dutchers, was diſſolved by mutual conſent on the 19th December laſt. All claims on ſaid concern will be ſettled by SAMUEL RIDINGER,

February 4.